

Keremeos Columns Access

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
To: Trewhitt, John ENV:EX <John.Trewhitt@gov.bc.ca>, Weston, Mark R ENV:EX <Mark.Weston@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX <Ken.Morrison@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: February 15, 2017 2:51:36 PM PST
Attachments: image001.jpg

After a few attempts, and a most recent phone call to s.22
s.22 there does not appear to be any appetite by the landowner(s) to enter into a licence/agreement with the Province to allow for public access to Keremeos Columns Park via the private land leading up to the park.

Keith J. Baric MSc

Planning Section Head (Kootenay-Okanagan)
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

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KEREMEOS COLUMNS PARK

From: s.22
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX <Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 22, 2019 12:47:36 PM PDT

HI KEITH

We were at the National Park meeting last week but you were busy so this is a follow up email.

s.22

We have improved the road up to a parking lot that is part of the sub-division we have built. This was mandatory by B.C. Highways as the hikers were parking along the road and being a problem for the locals. We understand at this time that people have been discouraged from climbing, hiking to this park because the land does not belong to B.C. Parks. We also understand that this mistake of deeding the wrong land to the Park happened along time ago. Has their been any move to correct this mistake and switch titles with the Clifton Ranch families? Another item is that this could be a fantastic entrance to the National Park that would be accessible to the public. Most people park and walk but we also see alot of vehicles drive up as well as ATV's being unloaded in the parking lot and then used to traverse the roads and trails.

We were disappointed to see that the map and the projected park did not include that Barcelo Canyon waterfall and hiking paths. This area does not have parking and hikers park along the road to the dismay of the locals.

What is B.C. Parks doing to make these areas accessible to people without annoying the locals?

Your consideration would be annreciated.

s.22

Keremeos Columns Park Website Update

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
To: Wilson, Kevin M ENV:EX <Kevin.Wilson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Weston, Mark R ENV:EX <Mark.Weston@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 19, 2020 10:15:54 AM PDT
Attachments: image002.jpg
Hi Kevin:

I am currently in discussions with^{s.22} who owns the property and access to Keremeos Columns. As you know the park does not protect the feature that the park is named for as the columns are entirely on private land as is the access.^{s.13; s.17}
^{s.13; s.17} . However, we are still in the preliminary stages and^{s.22} has asked us to remove any reference to public access to the columns on our website. Here is what it looks like now:

• Please note that some accesses to the Columns are through private land, which is closed to the public
Please observe posted signs and do not trespass on private property.

This is an adventure that requires fortitude as it's a long hike through sagebrush country concluding with a steep climb. Ensure you have plenty of water. The actual columns are not within the park boundaries but the park provides a viewpoint of these volcanic monuments. These spectacular formations of slowly-cooled lava, with the characteristic vertically-hexagonal jointing of basalt, rise majestically out of the surrounding fir forest.

The Keremeos Columns share the same geological phenomenon status as the Giant Causeway in Northern Ireland and the Devil's Tower in Wyoming.

As an added bonus, during the spring, the Lewisia blossoms add a flourish of color to the area. Be aware that trail access is across private property, so please be respectful of the privilege.

I have spoke to John and Mark about this and he supports that we should not be encouraging or promoting public use of the site. I would suggest on the website that we revise the wording to something like this:

Keremeos Columns Park does not contain the geological features that were intended to be protected at the time of establishment in the early 1930s. The column features are fully contained on private land. At this time, public access to the column features is not permitted. Viewing of the column features must be done so by using valley bottom vantage points that do not involve encroachment or access onto private land.

If we can make this a priority for a website update that would be much appreciated. Myself and the Land Acquisitions Negotiator from Victoria are planning to meet with^{s.22} later this month to discuss next steps.

Thanks Kevin!

Keith J. Baric
Planning Section Head (Okanagan)
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division
102 Industrial Place, Penticton B.C. V2A 7C8
Phone: 250-490-8260
Email: Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca

RE: Heads Up - Keremeos Columns PP

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
To: Hudson, Brett R ENV:EX <Brett.R.Hudson@gov.bc.ca>, Taylor, Jared ENV:EX <Jared.Taylor@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Trewhitt, John ENV:EX <John.Trewhitt@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 16, 2020 2:08:37 PM PST

Here are some bullets (mostly extracted from previous background on this issue):

- Keremeos Columns Park (20 hectares) does not protect the geologic formation known as the 'columns'. A survey conducted after park establishment (1931) confirmed that the columns were outside the park.
- The columns are located on a private parcel (DL 2963) located immediately south of the park boundary.
- At this time, public access to the column features is not permitted.
- Public viewing of the column features must be done so by using valley bottom vantage points that do not involve encroachment or access onto private land.
- Keremeos Columns Park, while not protecting the columns themselves, protects important grassland habitat and flora species at risk as well as acting as a natural buffer to the column features.

s.17

Keith J. Baric

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Phone: Office at 250-490-8260, cell at 250-462-0202, or Skype Phone at 778-622-6882.

Email: Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca

From: Hudson, Brett R ENV:EX <Brett.R.Hudson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 16, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX <Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca>; Taylor, Jared ENV:EX <Jared.Taylor@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Heads Up - Keremeos Columns PP

Could you guys work together to draft a response to this?

Thx

From: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 16, 2020 1:19 PM
To: Hudson, Brett R ENV:EX <Brett.R.Hudson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Heads Up - Keremeos Columns PP

Hey there, just a heads up that this one is in the hopper and will likely be coming to us when the writs are lifted. If we have capacity to pull response together in anticipation, lets do it. If you don't, I'll hold it in abeyance for when the time comes.

Thanks.

L

From: Karn, David GCPE:EX <David.Karn@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 16, 2020 11:35 AM
To: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX <Launa.Murai@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Roth, Pamela GCPE:EX <Pamela.Roth@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: +Media Request - InfoNews - Keremeos Columns Provincial Park

Launa,

No urgency but a good question. Assume it's the same as Hole in the Wall situation.

Reporter

Steve Arstad, Reporter

InfoNews

sarstad@infonews.ca

250-488-3065

Deadline n/a

Request

Keremeos Columns Provincial Park.

I was looking for information regarding the surveying mistake that placed the columns out of the park's boundaries.

Just looking for information on what happened, when the error was discovered, and what if anything can be done about it, also what reason is there to continue having a park in the area.

Recommendation

Background

David Karn

Ministry of Environment

M 250-213-3760

Keremeos Columns

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX <Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca>
To: Trewitt, John ENV:EX <John.Trewitt@gov.bc.ca>, Robertson, James ENV:EX <James.Robertson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wilson, Kevin M ENV:EX <Kevin.Wilson@gov.bc.ca>, Weston, Mark R ENV:EX <Mark.Weston@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 12, 2021 10:31:33 AM PST

I spoke with s.22 the owner of the lot that the geological column features that are supposed to be part of Keremeos Columns Park.s.22

s.22
s.22 _ ..so the concept is pretty much dead in the water now.

I will continue to monitor and I do believe the updates to the website that Kevin did has helped a bit in letting the public know not to be venturing up there on private land.

Thanks,

k

Keith J. Baric

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Email: Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca

Fw: Cathedral and Keremeos Columns Parks

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
To: Keiths.22
Sent: November 24, 2021 8:15:30 AM PST
Attachments: image002.gif

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent: November 16, 2021 11:16 AM
To: 'evelyn'
Subject: RE: Cathedral and Keremeos Columns Parks

Hi Evelyn:

Thanks for reaching out....encouraging to hear that outreach on the OCP is occurring and definitely the timing aligns nicely with that of the planning process for Cathedral Park.

Just so you are aware, BC Parks owns both land parcels (DL 2056S and DL 3025S) that comprise the operations of Cathedral Lake Lodge Ltd. and the lodge continues to operate its business under both a park use permit and through provisions of a lease (which is registered on title for both DL 2056S and DL 3025S). Our agency works very closely with the lodge operator and oversee compliance with the lease. If there is zoning to be applied via the OCP, those land areas should be synonymous with that of the balance of the park- rather than private commercial/tourism.

There is no residential development occurring at the base camp property (DL 2056S) within the park. There is a small residential area that has been developed along the Ashnola FSR on private land north of the base camp property....however, our agency is not involved although we monitor the park/private land interface for encroachment.

Regarding Keremeos Columns Park...the park land area does not actually protect the unique columnar geologic features- those features are located on private land of which there is no authorized access. Our agency has attempted to explore opportunities/park reconfiguration with the principle private land owner, but at this time there is no willingness to provide public access to the features. The park land can be accessed from the north, but it requires considerable roadless backcountry travel, not suitable for most visitors, and even then, the park does not contain any columnar geologic features.

Again, I appreciate your interest and I will ensure our staff are aware of the OCP process. Should you have any questions on the operational aspects of the parks mentioned above please contact Kevin Wilson (Area Supervisor) at Kevin.Wilson@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Kevin.Wilson@gov.bc.ca>.

Regards,

Keith

Keith J. Baric
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Phone: Office 778-622-6882, Mobile 250-462-0202
Email: Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca>

From: evelyn s.22

Sent: November 15, 2021 3:09 PM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX <Keith.Baric@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Cathedral and Keremeos Columns Parks

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Keith,

I am working with Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen and EcoPlan on the development of the first Official Community Plan (OCP) for Electoral Area "G" (which includes Hedley, rural Keremeos and Olalla areas). We have had some community engagement to this point and are in the process of having a second community survey. If you would like more information about the OCP project please visit RDOS Regional Connections page / Area G OCP. (

<https://rdosregionalconnections.ca/area-g-ocp><<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frdosregionalconnections.ca%2Farea-g-ocp&data=04%7C01%7Ckeith.baric%40gov.bc.ca%7C2c979d657dce40d4a86008d9a88ce31c%7C6fdb52003d0d4a8ab036d3685e359adc%7C0%7C0%7C637726145326971038%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=WMqJx%2FFhSUuehzlXjCdldmnwbUHkadbOBq83jblFvLFE%3D&reserved=0>>

)

To date, we have put together a draft land use map and are working on developing the broad goals and policies.

We have had several questions/comments about two of the Provincial Parks in the area, Cathedral Park and the Keremeos Columns Park, so I am hoping you can answer some of the questions posed to us!

1. Cathedral Park: I have read about the planning process on line (today!) and am glad to see that being done. Is it correct to assume that BC Parks desires to own all of the land in the park, including the resort/lodge? Is there a desire to phase out the resort, or are there plans to keep it privately run? In terms of designating the whole Park, the OCP could show it all as 'Parks and Recreation' following the designation of other Provincial Parks. Given the privately held/run lodge/resort area though, there is some consideration to designation this as 'Commercial Tourism' if the future desire it to maintain the commercial aspects of this area.

Also, we have been told that the land at the Ashnola parking area (base area) is currently being developed into some sort of residential area? Would you know anything about this? As there are no building permits or zoning in the area, it is difficult to determine what is being constructed.

1. Keremeos Columns Park: We have had several comments about allowing access to this park again. Checking on line, it appears that there aren't really any directions on how to get into this park and local residents have told us that the road in has been decommissioned. Could you provide some insights into this Park, and if there is a desire to provide access??

Thanks you some much for your time. If you have any questions or wish to talk to me directly, please call at 250-487-0394, or email me.

Regards,

Evelyn

Evelyn Riechert, MCIP, RPP

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